

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports
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Food and Animal Health & ID Program Area

Isaak Stapleton, Program Director; istapleton@oda.state.or.us; 503-986-4727

- **Food Safety Program:** The Food Safety Program has recently completed Administrative Rules changes for the Plastic Straw Bill SB90 and the Farm Direct Olive Oil Bill SB390. The Plastic Straw Bill (SB-90) passed by the 2019 Legislature and rules were effective 01/01/2020. A Fact sheet to assist retail establishments understanding the rules has been published. Administrative Rules process to update OAR 603-025 to incorporate Olive Oil to the Farm Direct Program directed by SB-390 were completed and this rule went into effect 01/01/2020. Additionally, the FSP has submitted rules to increase license fees by 3% and a public hearing is scheduled for January 29th at 10:00. FSP is also in the early stages of drafting rules to implement HB 2060 giving the program the authority to close a business for failure to obtain or maintain the required licensing.

A proposal for Administrative Rule change to support changes in the Oregon Food Code to expand the use of reusable containers is in draft form and will be sent to the DOJ for comment. Pending the outcome of the DOJ review, the FSP will reconvene with a group of stakeholders for their comment prior to initiating a formal rules change process.

- **Dairy Program:** Oregon has been picked to be a party to the NCIMS/FDA Grade "A" and Non-Grade "A" pilot program to help develop a program to meet the changes introduced by the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act on nations dairy programs. This pilot will help determine how states can continue to regulated Grade "A" and non-Grade "A" through a simplified inspection process rather than two completely separate inspections by different entities.
- **Preventive Controls Training:** This calendar year (January to June) we have twenty FSP field staff members schedule to take the FDA Preventive Controls for Regulators course.
- **Animal Health-Licensing of Animal Rescue Entities:** The AHP is currently working to establish the Animal Rescue Program. This action is in response to Senate Bill 883 which was passed by the 2019 legislature. Basically, the SB 883 amends ORS 609.415 to move enforcement and licensing of animal rescue entities to the office of the State Veterinarian. In general, animal rescue entities are an animal control agency, humane society, animal shelter, animal sanctuary or certain boarding kennels that keeps, houses and maintains in its legal custody 10 or more animals and that solicits or accepts donations in any form. Licensing is scheduled to commence July 1.
- **Equine 6-month Passport:** The AHP has stopped issuing the traditional equine 6-month passport. The long-time participating equine passport states of WA, ID, MT, and CA are phasing out the traditional program and adopting a private contractor version of the extended equine CVI (EECVI) offered by Global Vet Link (GVL). Oregon's animal import rules require an import permit be issued, unfortunately GVL's document does not allow inclusion of an import permit, therefore Oregon cannot use the GVL documents until the import permit issue is resolved. The traditional equine 6-month passport that everyone has been using is no longer available beginning January 1, 2020. The AHP will honor those passports that have been issued previous to that date until their expiration date.
- **Livestock Identification:** The Brand Inspectors were extremely busy last fall, finishing the calendar year with 1,110,286 cattle inspections. This number is slightly behind 2018. Brand registration wrapped up for the year with a high percentage of brands renewed on time.

Program staff are preparing to work with industry, through a brand advisory committee, to explore ideas in how to move the program forward with the pending financial shortfall. Brand Inspectors, have received a sizable salary increase. This increase, along with cost of living increases will result in a 20% increase in salary for the program over the next 3 years. The current financial status of the program will not be able to afford this increase. This could include some form of fee increases or significant reduction in services.

Internal Service & Consumer Protection Program Area

Jason Barber, Program Director; jbarber@oda.state.or.us; 503-986-4767

- **Weights and Measures Program:** 4rd Quarter, 2019 (* Denotes 3rd Quarter 2019 for comparison)
- As of 9/30/19, the program had 62,358 (*62,399) licensed weighing and measuring devices operated by 13,785 (*13,802) businesses in Oregon.
- Through the 4th Quarter of 2019, inspectors have examined 51,798 (83% of total) weighing and measuring devices licensed across the state. Of those devices examined, 4102 were rejected (7.9%) and 1,928 devices had on-site corrective actions performed (3.6%). 229 new licenses were issues bringing the year-to-date total to 1,037. Twenty-eight " Just Checking In" (JCI) Food Safety Audits were conducted by W&M Inspectors. This brings the total for 2019 to 114. The program has received, investigated 27 W&M complaints, bringing the annual total to 81. 4th quarter complaints included: Licensing/other – 4; Fuel Quality – 7; Fuel Quantity – 10; Scales/Meters – 2; Fuel Advertising - 4
- As of 12/31/19, the W&M delinquent caseload had been reduced down to 326 (*462) licenses worth \$60,103 (*\$84,839) of license fee revenue.
- **Metrology Lab:** During the 4th quarter of 2019, the ODA Metrology Lab conducted 1m194 (*560) high precision calibrations for private industry and other state metrology labs. Through 12/31/19, the lab has conducted a total of 4,401 high precision calibrations that has generated \$80,120 worth of fee-for-service revenue.
- **Motor Fuel Quality Program:** For the 4th quarter of 2019, Field Inspectors conducted the following motor fuel quality field screening tests: 286 (*393) motor fuel quality screenings with 18 (*3) failed screens; 964 (*839) fuel storage tanks screened with 2 (*5) screens showing excessive water in the tanks.
- **Lab Services Program, ODA Cyanotoxin Project:** In 2018, detections of cyanotoxins in Salem's drinking water caused by Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) raised health concerns across the state and especially with manufactured food producers here in Salem, who used Salem's drinking water in their food processing. Many of these businesses contacted the ODA looking for a cyanotoxin testing process to test their food products for safety. Unfortunately, at that time, no approved method existed in the world.

ODA's Lab Services has spent the last 11 months researching, collaborating, developing, and standardizing a method for the determination of Cyanotoxins in food products. It is hoped that this work will help Oregon's Manufactured Food Producers take the appropriate steps needed to ensure public health and their economic stability in future effected areas. Lab Services was successful in developing a method we believe can be used in this process. Currently, SOPs are being written up and preliminary work on two matrices are being concluded. The decision to expend an additional 2-months' work to fully validate methods for the 2 matrices was approved by ODA Leadership Team.

- **Wolf Grant Program:** ODA submitted federal grant application to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for \$15,000 of direct compensation grant funds and \$130,000 of prevention grant funds. This prevention request is twice the normal amount historically asked for as additional matching (in-kind) funds were

identified at ODFW by way of using salary and equipment for 3 new wolf biologist positions. This in-kind state general fund match was approved by USFWS.

Market Access & Certification Program Area

Jess Paulson, Program Director; jpaulson@oda.state.or.us; 503-507-9313

- **Agriculture Development and Marketing:** Farm to School Equipment and Infrastructure Grant is now available. During the 2019 session, the Oregon Legislature passed an expanded Farm to School Grant Program that included an increase in funding from \$4.5 million to \$15 million. While the Oregon Department of Education is responsible for allocating most of the funds, ODA was given authority to oversee \$500,000 in equipment and infrastructure grants for producers who intend to sell to schools. The goal of this competitive grant program is to provide financial resources for Oregon farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters, and processors with specific equipment and infrastructure needs, and who intend to see food produced or processed in Oregon to any of the following sponsors:
 - A school district participating in the National School Lunch Program;
 - A provider of center-based programs for children in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; and
 - An entity that provides meals through the Summer Food Service Program
- ADMP is finalizing its 2020 international missions and planning for 2021. Attached is a list of the international opportunities for Oregon agribusiness.
- **Produce Safety:** Produce Safety Program provides a variety of services to the produce industry to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The program focus is on outreach, education, and technical assistance via its four staff and partners with five Oregon State University faculty. To date, the Produce Safety team has conducted 25 grower training classes, reaching over 700 people. In 2019, we provided over 60 technical assistance visits or On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR) to farms in Oregon.

The first year Produce Safety Rule inspections were conducted across the United States in 2019. In Oregon, the Food and Drug Administration conducts these inspections. Farms grossing over \$500,000 of produce sales averaged over the last three years were inspected. ODA held the first of multiple listening sessions for stakeholders to share how FSMA is impacting them.

- **Seed Regulatory Program:** A Seed Civil Penalty Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) has been established to review and update Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 603-056-0460 through 603-056-0490 relating to civil penalties for seed law violations. Specifically, the objectives of this committee are to:
 - Review existing civil penalties to determine if they are effective at discouraging seed law violations and update or amend them as appropriate.
 - Develop a civil penalty matrix for seed law violations, incorporating violation class (ie., major or minor), frequency and magnitude of violations, and other relevant information to bring the seed civil penalty rule in line with other Oregon state agency civil penalties.
 - Determine how, when, or if license suspension or revocation should correspond to seed law violations or civil penalty issuance.
- **Shipping Point Inspection**
 - Crop movement for all commodities is average or better. Prices seem to be very stable.
 - The Shipping Point program successfully completed its management review of the Branch Internal Quality Management System (BIQMS) manual.
- **Specialty Crop Block Grant:** The Request for Proposals for the 2020 funding cycle was open from December 2, 2019 through January 31, 2020. The program hosted 16 workshops throughout the state to increase awareness about the funding opportunities available through the SCBG program and to assist people in the application process.

Natural Resource Program Area

Stephanie Page, Program Director; spage@oda.state.or.us; 503-986-4713

- The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership advisory committee had its initial meeting in November, 2019 and will be meeting again on January 15, 2020. The advisory committee is refining/discussing key questions that will be used to develop a state-level strategic plan for the program.
- The Chlorpyrifos Work Group had its initial meeting in December, 2019 and will be meeting again in January, 2020. The initial meeting included presentations about bystander exposure, strategies to reduce exposure risk, and water quality data related to chlorpyrifos. At its second meeting, the work group will have more presentations and discussion about risk reduction strategies.
- ODA issued a Notice of Satisfaction to the Trustee regarding the cleanup of Lost Valley Farm. The Trustee for the farm signed an Order and Mutual Agreement (OMA) on January 16, 2019, that included a clean-up checklist for the facility. Over the past year, ODA conducted inspections to document completion of the clean-up checklist and compliance with the terms of the OMA.
- We are very pleased to have two new managers starting their roles in the Natural Resource Program Area in 2020. Toby Primbs began his role as the Pesticides Investigation & Enforcement Program manager on January 1, 2020. Toby has worked for ODA for several years in the ODA laboratory, Nursery Program, and most recently, in our Fertilizer Program focusing on enforcement case review. Marganne Allen will begin her role as the Agricultural Water Quality Program manager on February 3, 2020. Marganne comes to us from the Oregon Department of Forestry, where she has most recently served as the Forest Health and Monitoring Manager. We are also conducting a recruitment for a second manager in the Agricultural Water Quality and Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Programs and that recruitment will open sometime in the next few weeks. This second manager position will be focused on partnerships and stakeholder engagement.
- When John Byers served as Agricultural Water Quality Program & SWCD program manager, he also managed the Field Burning Program. To create a more sustainable workload for the incoming program manager, we asked if another section of ODA might be interested/willing to take over the management of this program. Seed Certification services within Market Access and Certification has graciously agreed to take on the oversight of this program and our staff and managers have been cross-training during the past Field Burning season. The cross-training and transition will continue this year.
- We also have several other recruitments going on to fill new positions and vacant existing positions. We are currently recruiting for a Worker Protection Standard educator; two Fertilizer Program staff positions; a Regional Water Quality Specialist in the Agricultural Water Quality Program; an Ag Channel Maintenance specialist, and an Office Specialist in our Pesticides Program.

Plant Protection & Conservation Program Area

Helmuth Rogg, Program Director; hrogg@oda.state.or.us; 503-986-4662

- Key issues are 1) securing continuous funding for the largest Japanese beetle eradication project in Oregon's history and 2) identifying additional state funding sources for an Aquatic Noxious Weed Specialist.
- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM)**--The 2018 treatment of the Japanese beetle infestation in NW Portland was successful and showed that we are on the right path. However, the 2019 catch numbers were still at a high number with 7,500 JB caught in the Portland treatment area. We are looking at several more years of continuous eradication efforts to completely eliminate the Japanese beetle from Portland.

- Our biocontrol program is testing entomopathogenic nematodes on the invasive rhododendrons and azalea pest, the azalea lace bug. The initial results are promising. The azalea lace bug is adversely impacting various native plants, including the salal.
- **Noxious Weed Control Program**--The recently approved new biological control agents for gorse and Japanese knotweed are at ODA's Hawthorne greenhouse for reproduction and posterior release in the spring of 2020.
- The Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grant program received 65 grant proposals for noxious weed control and restoration projects across the state. The OSWB will select the grants in its February meeting.
- **Nursery, Christmas Tree, and HEMP Program**--This year's Christmas tree shipping season went very well. Mexican border inspectors only rejected five containers, less than 1% of the 600,000 Christmas trees shipped to Mexico. Hawaii asked that 4 out of 156 (with almost 90,000 Christmas trees) containers had to be cleaned of unwanted pests.
- The final numbers for the 2019 Hemp season broke all records: 1,961 growers, 598 handlers, 853 seed handlers, and 63,883 acres of hemp. Compared to 2018, the numbers were up over 300 to 550%.
- **Native Plant Conservation Program**--We received additional State funding to cover costs for the statutorily mandated consultations by local agencies and institutions with our Program.
- Jordan Brown, our Native Plant specialist, was promoted to be the new Program lead.
- **Oregon Invasive Species Council**--We held our first and only in-person Council meeting of 2019 on October 14-16 in Boardman with almost 40 participants from across the State.
- At the end of January, we will close the submission for the newly funded OISC outreach and education grant program. The OISC will select grant proposals for the \$100,000 grant program in early 2020.

Administration/Special Projects

Sunny Summers; ssummers@oda.state.or.us; 503-986-4565

- ODA filed permanent rules for spring planting of Brassicaceae in the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD). ODA also started accepting applications for 59 acres that were not permitted in the fall of the 500 acres allowed in the WVPD for the 2020 crop year.
- ODA submitted comments USDA's Interim Final Rule establishing a domestic hemp production program.

FEBRUARY (2020)

- 16th—20th: Gulfood Trade Show in the United Arab Emirates
- 19th: U.S. HTS & Schedule B Classification Class in Portland
- 20th: 2020 Incoterms Class in Portland
- 23rd—29th: South America Outbound Trade Mission to Colombia

MARCH

- 7th—13th: China Consumer-Oriented Outbound Trade Mission to Beijing, Shenyang, & Chengdu
- 9th—13th: FOODEX Trade Show in Japan
- 31st—April 3rd: Food & Hotel Asia (Trade Show) in Singapore

APRIL

- 15th – 17th: SIAL Canada in Montreal
- 19th- 25th: Consumer-Oriented Inbound trade Missions from Australia and Korea to CA & WA

MAY

- 4th—8th: SE Asia Outbound Trade Mission to Malaysia & the Philippines
- 13th—15th: SIAL China in Shanghai
- 18th—22nd: Mexico Outbound Trade Mission to Mexico City

JUNE

- 1st—5th: Outbound Trade Mission to Taiwan
- 22nd—26th: Korea Consumer Oriented Inbound Trade Mission to OR & HI
- 22nd – 26th : Central America, Mexico and SE Asia produce inbound to CA & WA

JULY

- 13th—27th: SE Asia Seafood Outbound Trade Mission

AUGUST

- 3rd – 7th : Middle East Consumer Oriented Inbound Trade Mission to WA & CO
- 18th – 22nd: Taiwan Retail Inbound Trade Mission to WA & HI
- 24th—28th: Japan Foodservice & Ingredient Inbound Trade Mission to ID & OR
- 25th – 28th: tentative Russia Nursery Inbound to FarWest Show

SEPTEMBER

- 1st—10th: Food & Hotel Trade Show in India
- 6th – 10th: Middle East Outbound Trade Mission to Israel

- 8th—10th: Espacio Food & Service Trade Show in Santiago, Chile
- 9th—11th: Food Ingredients Asia Trade Show in Indonesia
- 15-18th: SE Asia Outbound Trade Mission
- 21st – 25th: Middle East Animal Feed Inbound Trade Mission to ID & UT

OCTOBER

- TBD: Tentative ODA Director's Trade Mission
- 15-17th: Taiwan Inbound Trade Mission to PMA Fresh Summit in TX
- 18-22nd: SIAL Paris Trade Show

NOVEMBER

- 9-13th: China Foodservice Outbound Trade Mission to Hong Kong, Shenzhen & Guangzhou
- 9-13th: Japan Outbound Trade Mission to Tokyo and 2nd city
- 24-27th: Food & Hotel Hanoi Trade Show

DECEMBER

- 6th – 12th : Europe & Middle East Dried Fruit & Nut Inbound Trade Mission to CA, NM & AZ
- 7-11th: Korea Outbound Trade Mission
- 7-11th: Foodservice Promotion in Korea

CONTACT:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture provides Trade and International Marketing Managers to help you navigate the world of exporting. You can call the main number at 503-872-6600 or directly email the contacts below:

Erick Garman for Canada & Mexico (egarman@oda.state.or.us)

Theresa Yoshioka for Japan, Korea, Taiwan & all other regions (tyoshioka@oda.state.or.us)